## Claims

1. Method for processing two or more initially decoded (21, 22, 23) audio signals received or replayed from a bit-
5      stream, that each have a different number of channels and/or different channel configurations, and that are combined by mixing (27) and/or switching (28) before be-ing presented (20) in a final channel configuration, wherein to each one of said initially decoded audio sig-
10     nals a corresponding specific channel configuration in-formation (ChannelConfig) is attached, **characterised** in that said mixing (27) and/or switching (28) is controlled such that in case of non-matching number of channels and/or types of channel configurations the number and/or
15     configuration of the channels to be output following said mixing and/or following said switching is determined by related specific mixing and/or switching information (278) provided from a content provider or broadcaster, and in that to the combined data stream to be presented a
20     correspondingly updated channel configuration information is attached (30).

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein said bitstream has MPEG-4 format.
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3. Apparatus for , and including:
   - at least two audio data decoders (21, 22, 23) that decode audio data received or replayed from a bitstream;
   - means (24 - 28) for processing the audio signals ini-
30     tially decoded by said audio data decoders (21, 22, 23), wherein at least two of said decoded audio signals each have a different number of channels and/or a different channel configuration, and wherein said processing in-cludes combination by mixing (27) and/or switching (28);
35   - means (20) for presenting the combined audio signals in a final channel configuration, wherein to each one of said

initially decoded audio signals a corresponding specific channel configuration information (ChannelConfig) is attached,

- wherein in said processing means (24 - 28) said mixing (27) and/or switching (28) is controlled such that in case of non-matching number of channels and/or types of channel configurations the number and/or configuration of the channels to be output following said mixing and/or following said switching is determined by related specific mixing and/or switching information (278) provided from a content provider or broadcaster, and wherein to the combined data stream fed to said presenting means (20) a correspondingly updated channel configuration information is attached (30).

4. Apparatus according to claim , wherein said bitstream has MPEG-4 format.